

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 03779 220220Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00
CIAE-00 /026 W

-----078185 220227Z /65/75

O 202342Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2045
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NY
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE TE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 3779

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (USMISSION USUN ADDED AS INFO ADDEE)

3.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, SY, LE, IS
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: MOVEMENT OF IRAQI TRUCK CONVOY

REF: STATE 071173

1. REACHED WEIZMAN ON THEPHONE AT HOME AT 0015 HOURS
(MARCH 21 AND CONVEYED MESSAGE (REFTEL).
2. DURING SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WEIZMAN (WHO WAS IN A VERY SOBER
MOOD) MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:
-- HE IS TRYING HIS BEST TO CALM SITUATION. IT HAD BEEN "TOUCH
AND GO" TODAY AND HE HAD BEEN UNDER GREAT PRESSURE TO "BLOW TO
HELL" THE IRAQI TRUCK CONVOY. HE HAD NOT DONE SO BECAUSE HE
REALIZED THIS WOULD HAVE "LIT THE FUSE," AS HE PUT IT.
--THE ISRAELIS HAVE INFORMATION THAT MORE IRAQI CONVOYS ARE ON

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THE WAY. THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THE IRAQIS MAY TRY TO
RELIEVE TYRE. THIS HAS TO STOP. ISRAEL WILL NOT TOLERATE
THE PRESENCE OF IRAQIS IN NABATIYAH OR TYRE.
--WEIZMAN IS PREAPRED FOR IMMEDIATE INDIRECT TALKS WITH
THE SYRIANS THROUGH THE US TO SEEK A WAY TO DEFUSE THE SITU-
ATION. HE WILL HOLD OFF ATTACKING THE IRAQIS FOR A SHORT
WHILE LONGER, BUT IF REINFORCEMENTS CONTINUE FLOWING INTO

NABATIYAH OR IF EFFORTS ARE MADE TO RELIEVE TYRE, "WE SHALL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING."

3. WEIZMAN SAID HE HAD A GOOD TALK THIS AFTERNOON WITH SIIL-ASVUO. HE BELIEVED THAT "WE CAN FIND A COMMON LANGUAGE," BUT HE WANTED TO MAKE ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT ISRAEL'S ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE UNIFIL WERE WORKED OUT IN A MANNER "SO THAT WE WON'T HAVE TO GO BACK IN THERE IN ANOTHER 3 OR 4 MONTHS."

4. I REITERATED THE IMPERATIVE NEED FOR ISRAELI RESTRAINT AND WARNED OF THE DIRECONSEQUENCES IF THE ISRAELIS GO OFF HALF-COCKED IN THIS SITUATION. WEIZMAN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD CLEARLY OUR MESSAGE. HE ASKED THAT I CONVEY TO THE SECRETARY HIS GRATITUDE FOR WHATEVER CAN BE DONE TO HALT IRAQI INTERVENTION. HE SAID HE DID NOT INSIST THAT THE IRAQIS RETURN HOME, BUT "YOU MUST GET THEM OUT OF NABATIYAH TO THE NORTH." AS FAST AS POSSIBLE. MEANWHILE, HE SAID HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO KEEP THE LID ON. VIETS

SECRET

NNN

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